Bristol Friday Mar: 28-1851

My dear Mr. May.

I will not allow another mail to go to the U.S. without sending a line tho' I am not able to write much to day, having several things to attend to, & not being over-gifted with strength: indeed I am writing now (for security from interruption & for quiet) in bed. I could not find time or strength last week to write to you in addition to other pressing correspondents — chiefly however, I assure you, Antislavery ones.

What I especially wish to communicate with you about now, is this. In the article in the M. Advertiser, I referred to Dr. Dewey's remarks, which I quoted from the very minute report you wrote to Mrs Thomas & repeated to me of what he said, not having then seen any recent opinions of his in print; but I always repose the most implicit confidence in your accuracy. Already has anger at that article exhibited itself among Americans — a Mr Marshall, who has lived in the U.S. cut out the article from the (M. Adv.) & sent it to Harriet Lupton, thinking her family might have sent the paper to her (Mrs. M.) Miss Lupton, suspecting that ~~the~~ I might have had something to do with this paper in the M. Adv., to commit the slip to us with the following note appended to Dr. Dewey's assertion about preferring to send his Mother &c. &c.

"A wicked invention.' Dr. D. said nothing of the kind. A
"gentleman is now in London, who was one of the party
"who got up the Meeting. Mr Marshall dined with him
"last Wednesday & was assured that no such declara-
"tion took place."

Mrs. M.'s authority for this positive denial appears to have been a Mr. Dodge lately arrived in the St. Lawrence with charge of articles for the Exhibition, who, I suppose is a Unitn. or at least a great opponent to the "Higher Law."

As far as I can understand Dr. D. has at least 3 times given some public expression of his opinions. Your account refers to a lecture at Waltham: that alluded to in the "Ann. Report, of the Mass. A.S." I presume applies to the meeting or lecture at the "Boston Mercantile Assn." of which you say "a report in the "Traveller"" "I have also found a notice in the Liber.: & where

the illustration of his sentiments by the hy-
pothetical case of sending his own family into
slavery, is not brought forward — & In the
last Lib.r I have (Mar: 7th) there is
however a report copied from the
Nat.l Era by a "Grace Greenwood," of an
address of D.W.s at Lynn, where he is
reported to have said that, if required in
obedience to the Con, he wd even "send his
own brother or child back to slavery."

I cannot then doubt for an instant
of his having declared himself to this
effect, but I shall be very glad if you
are able to confirm the utterance of the
precise words as I gave them in the M.
Advert. It is not unlikely our Unit.n
body at the Ass.n in May may to say
something on the subject.

The article in the M. Adv.r has gone
thro' the length & breadth of the land. I
was very desirous for so full a statement
of the position of the Anti Slavery cause
~~should~~ to be extensively forced upon the reading

public. I ordered 600 copies of the paper,
& they have been distributed with care &
selection. The Brit. Banner, (Dr. Campbell's) in utter igno
of the writer, (& probably not very heartily,
but unwilling to lag behind its "excellen
contemporary,") sends much of it to nu
merous readers. How many provin
cial papers may have copied some or
all of it, I know not, but I suspect ma
have, from those I chance to know of –
I sent a B. Banner to 21 Cornhill –
I must let you have a list of ~~the Advocates.~~
~~that were sent to~~ your countrymen a
at their own firesides, to whom copies were s

Since then, ~~under~~ with Mrs Massie's agency
in respect to newspaper help, I have
written an article named "Clerical
Teachings on ~~the~~ Slavery", and am not
without hopes that it may be inserted
in to-days' London, Standard of Freedom
& if so, I have directed a copy to be post
to night from London for you at Cornhi
No., shall not know till to-morrow if John
Cassell, the Edr., has inserted it –
My chief object in drawing up this

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2/ paper was, to make extensive use of it as a little manual for future circulation; its being copied from a London paper giving it a weight that no Provincial journal, & no private publication could with out to it.- My daughter & a sensible ~~Abolit~~ "Independent" young lady here - & to this "Bristol & Clifton Ladies A. S. Soc" (a society now seeing how shamefully it has been in inactivity & ignorance by John Scoble, & gradually emancipating itself from the incubus of its worthless "Parent") have contrived to get passed at by this Soc.y a Resolution which we had prepared with great care, calling on Ministers who will attend May Meetings in London to bring the question before their respective bodies. Mr Massie says the "dumb dogs" are so hardened it will be of no avail: we think differently; & believe pressure from without may be sufficiently applied at least to make the mutes not comfortable in their silence.- We mean to send a copy to all A. S. societies, and Reslt. from action by the B. & F. Socy, & to get them to stimulate their ministers by passing a similar Resolution -

Now if we are fortunate in having the "Clerical Teachings" printed in a London paper this week or the next, we mean to insert the slips or reprint, with ~~in~~ each copy of the Resolution sent abroad, & we are vain enough to think this little document may be a useful brief for the Ministers.

A hundred subjects crowd on my mind to write about: but I determined to say now before I rose, what was most essential, & to which I should like for as speedy a reply as practicable.

I have been more poorly for the last 10 or 12 days & never for scarcely passing any day without regret ~~th~~ at the unfinished work (correspondence) I have been compelled to leave - Do not however suppose that because I write from bed, a to save myself trouble almost illegibly, that I am materially worse. When we have fine weather (which has long been absent) & I can get out again, I expect to be much better. I have no reason to apprehend having any serious, or any organic disease; you will understand my condition perhaps by my saying that I feel myself, in consequence of much delicate health, to be 75 instead of 66.

I have written as to this point without stopping, & as it is now near noon I must leave my couch of Logic off — Altogether, I am in better health than when I last wrote to you

One of my regrets at this moment is, that I cannot tell you how interested we have been in your late letters, & in the various Reports sent & how thankful for your kind recollection of us in sending the Am. Alma:

mark & Mr. ~~Allen~~ Webb also sent us your letter to him & we were struck & touched by your remarks upon the isolation of Abolitionists (proper) in this country. The manner in which my daughter & I, dreaded Unitarians, have had ways opened to us for influencing & informing at least orthodox bodies in ~~this country~~ Gt. Britain on the Slavery Question, is really curious. Mr. Massie thinks the ~~clear~~ press is our medium; — an old, strangled Society here, affiliated with the "B. & F. A-S. Socy." my daughter's.

We wrote fully to Paris yesterday & put our friends in possession of all English A-S. politics it was desirable for them to know before they come to London in May.

My daughter will be able to write a little so I will conclude. — I fear to hear of serious events in Boston! & trust Mr. Garrison is better? Ever Yours J. B. E

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